

September 13, 1943

NEWSLETTER TOPICS

Our Post-War Program

Your Cooperative, along with more than 800 other systems throughout the country, is beginning to lay definite plans for the post-war period. Hundreds of thousands of American farmers are hoping to get long-awaited electric service after victory has been won. Such a construction program will involve the setting up of new systems as well as the extension of old.

REA, working with other agencies of the Department of Agriculture, will use your plans to determine in advance the size of the national rural electrification job so that intelligent provisions may be made. Winning the war is our first and most important task, but those who are planning for the future know that the end of the war will bring many perplexing problems, many of which can be solved only by foresighted action now. Secretary of Agriculture Wickard, in addressing the REA staff recently, had this to say:

"We are giving increased attention to the problems of agriculture in the post-war period. This is not because we think the day of victory is near, but rather because we remember what happened after the last war when, after a few months of great activity, we were confronted with an agricultural and economic depression that all but wrecked us.

"I think REA has one of the greatest opportunities to be beneficial and helpful in the post-war period...One thing in that connection that I hope we do not lose sight of, and I hope that the farmers of this country do not lose sight of, is that -- at least for quite a long time after the last gun is fired -- there is going to be a great demand for agricultural products of this country. I think you can realize how much food is going to be required by both foe and friend when the day of peace comes.

"REA offers a great opportunity in taking up the slack in employment and in the demand for the output of the war-expanded metal industries. This opportunity can come not only through the extension of lines but also through the greater use of electricity in those homes where it is now available."

It's The Little Things That Count

Our cooperative cut its teeth on the basic idea of people working together for the common good. When you signed an easement so that the line could cross your property you performed an act of fundamental cooperation. That act made your service possible, and it enabled others down the road to get a couple of wires to their farmhouses.

Unless you had acted in unison with your neighbors, you would not have electric service today. Similarly, unless you continue to pool your interests and your endeavor in behalf of the cooperative, this service will never be as efficient or as economical as it should be. That's one of the good things about cooperatives: you can make of it what you wish, because you are one of the owners of the enterprise.

A lot of little acts of cooperation can go a long way toward making our system successful financially as well as in point of service. Take reporting of outages as an example. It doesn't take much effort to notify the co-op office when something goes wrong on the line, but that notification can mean a good deal to your neighbors by getting their service restored quickly. You will likewise avoid loss and inconvenience when your neighbor promptly reports trouble farther up the line.

Every time you or your neighbors report an outage, it may spare the line crew hours of driving and searching for the trouble. That kind of co-operation means money in the co-op's till -- money the members will not have to make up in paying off the co-op's loan so that you may call this system your own.

How Do You Rate on Farm Safety?

This year when high school youngsters, white collar workers from the city and even soldiers are helping out on the farm, it is important that all co-op members do their best to prevent accidents. Electricity, itself, can be dangerous and should be handled carefully. Records show, however, that the other everyday equipment which farmers use causes most accidents. Every farmer ought to warn inexperienced hands about the dangers of the commonest farm equipment and, in addition, he should give definite safety instructions.

Here are a few questions about the safe use of electricity. If you can answer "yes" to all of them, you have made a good start toward preventing electrical accidents on your farm.

1. Are all moving parts on your equipment protected with shields or guards?
2. Are electric motors always kept away from hay and other inflammable materials?
3. Was your wiring job done by a competent electrician and was it inspected by a proper authority?
4. Are your electric service wires hung high enough to easily clear a man on a load of hay or other equipment?
5. Do you avoid electric shock by not using electrical equipment when standing on wet ground?
6. Do you put new fuses of the proper size in the fuse box when old ones burn out?
7. Do you avoid handling loose electric wires?
8. Do you use a long drop cord instead of lighted matches in closets and near inflammable material?
9. Are children kept away from electrically operated farm machinery?
10. Do you call the cooperative office immediately in case of any unusual trouble--such as broken wires--along the highline?

Slow Pay Hurts Service

It embarrasses us to mention a small matter which concerns all of us. This system belongs to you folks who use the electricity. You are buying the lines a little at a time by means of a United States Government loan. The only way you can reduce this loan is with revenues from electric service provided members of the cooperative. The little matter we are talking about is very important to everyone. Most of you take care of it promptly before the (date) of the month. We hate to say so but, if this matter is not taken care of by the (date), it becomes our unpleasant duty to disconnect the service of those who are forgetful. Last month _____ families had to get along without power for several days.

Build a Brooder

Start now to build your electric brooder for next spring. It is imperative that American farmers make the best possible use of the limited supply of feed. An electric chick brooder is safe, easy to operate and will help make certain that unnecessary chick losses do not waste feed. Plans for building home-made chick brooders may be secured from your Co-op office.

Some Good Examples of Newsletter Items:

REA IS MY BEST HIRED MAN BECAUSE:

"He pumps our water" --- Gerben H. DeVries.

"He's on deck 24 hours a day, 7 days a week" --- Bert H. Gesink.

"He saves a lot of little pigs. We have 11 brooders" --- Mrs. K. Lutjens.

"He milks the cows, turns the separator, keeps the tank defrosted, gives the chickens longer days, does many other jobs, and never talks back"
--- Joe Addink.

"He's the most economical and most faithful" --- Mrs. Jennie Becker.

C. P. Hungerford tells us it only takes him an hour and a quarter to milk 18 cows and have the milk in the cooler. He is using an electric milking machine. Before having the machine, it took at least an hour longer.

Mrs. Garnett Riley writes in to say she has turned on a water pump and water heater which accounts for the extra kilowatts. This is of great help to us in posting the meter reading. If kilowatt-hour use shows a big jump or a big drop and we are not advised as to the reason, we often wonder if the reading is correct.

We suggest that when new appliances are added or when your brooder is put into use or removed from the line, you so state on your meter reading card. This will relieve us of wondering if the reading is correct or of sending out duplicate cards for marking.

Approximately 70,000 broilers are being watered by electricity and about 13,000 are being raised under electric brooders on the lines of our Cooperative. Many broiler men are using lights in their broiler houses to encourage feeding through the night. They claim this produces faster growing broilers, adding approximately one-half pound in 14 weeks.

George T. Porter was able to see to shoot two grey foxes that were helping themselves to his chickens, thanks to electricity. One came at 2 o'clock and one at 3:00 in the morning. George turned the yard light on and shot them both.

"Our electric water pressure system is the best investment we have made. It is the biggest and best help we have ever had... You just can't estimate the good you get from it, and the cost is negligible compared to the time and labor saved. We are so proud of our water system we want to tell everybody about it."
--- R. R. Teetle.